

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain requests for one minute addresses.

EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain once said, "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." Well, in a similar sense, the Clinton-Gore administration often pledges to support education, but does nothing to back up their rhetoric.

In contrast, the House Republicans have made education improvements one of our top priorities, and we are seeing results. We passed bipartisan measures to give local school districts more flexibility with education dollars, providing parents and teachers a voice in where their children's education funds are spent.

Our Teacher Empowerment Act helps teachers enhance their training and addresses teacher shortages by increasing recruitment and retention. Every student deserves to have qualified teachers.

Republicans have also led the charge for full Federal funding for the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, giving disabled students access to the best possible education.

Our children deserve quality education, and Republicans are making it happen.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REFORM OF THE FLOOD
INSURANCE PROGRAM NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we are engaged in a race with Mother Nature that we will most assuredly lose. In the past on the floor of this Cham-

ber I have discussed reform of the flood insurance program, which as presently constituted encourages people to live, in fact, subsidizes people to live in places where God has repeatedly shown that He does not want them. Currently this is a critical issue, because we are concentrating our population in areas that are near the coastline. In California alone, 80 percent of the population lives within 30 miles of the Pacific Ocean.

We have had studies, the most recent one the Heinz Report, which has shown in several of the areas that they have studied in the coastal area development has increased 60 percent in the last 20 years in high hazard areas. The report concluded for our Federal Emergency Management Agency that in the next 60 years, we will probably lose 25 percent of the structures that are located within 500 feet of the coastline. In the next 10 years alone there are 10,000 structures that are directly at risk.

Yet at the same time we are involved with a massive program attempting to reconstruct our beaches, without a sense of cost, and, in many cases with a 50-year maintenance operation, we are at work dumping the equivalent of over 3,000 truckloads of sand per day in this race with nature.

There are many States that are fortifying the coastline, virtually walling them off, keeping people away from the beaches, and, ironically, this costly effort at engineering is actually accelerating the erosion process. We are in fact making it worse by our efforts.

We are giving a false sense of security so more people live in harm's way, which increases the amount of Federal money at risk. The fortification halts the natural process of regenerating the beaches, and the construction of what are called groins and jetties in the fortification actually deflects that power further along the coast and increases the scouring action, undercutting and sweeping the beaches away. In many cases, we are doing this time and time and time again.

Since 1950, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, there have been 46 efforts at restoring that beach. It is time to stop making it worse with development and with remedial actions that are not carefully thought through.

I strongly suggest that this Congress take three important steps:

First, to revise the funding formulas, so that we are not subsidizing people living in harm's way and putting the Federal taxpayer at risk.

It is time to revise the flood insurance program. The legislation that the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and I have introduced, the Two Floods and You Are Out of the Taxpayer Pocket, would be an important step in that fashion.

Finally, and perhaps most important, it is time for us to stop having development occur in these inappropriate coastal locations.

If we take simple, common sense steps, we can end up making our com-

munities more livable, saving the taxpayer money and avoiding more serious problems in the future.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1660 AND
H.R. 1760

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor from H.R. 1660 and H.R. 1760.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim my special order time at this point.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

AID FOR MACEDONIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, the first thing I would like to do tonight is to make a few additional comments regarding the colloquy held earlier today between the gentleman from Alabama (Chairman CALLAHAN), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and myself concerning additional aid to Macedonia. We appreciate the consideration of the chairman for additional funding for Macedonia if additional funds become available for the foreign operations appropriations.

I will include for the RECORD additional articles concerning the problems Macedonia is facing.

I want to thank Virginia Sirso of the Macedonian Tribune in my home town of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for providing many of these materials that point out the sacrifices that Macedonia made to help us in the war in the Balkans, even though it was very decisive in that part of the world, and particularly with the majority of their population being orthodox and trying to keep a coalition government together, losing 400 to 600 million dollars because of their sacrifices. The least we could do would be to help those who sacrificed to help us.

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

The second thing I would like to address this afternoon is an initiative, some innovative proposals on marriage and family, from Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma. The TANF funds, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Family funds that have gone to Oklahoma, are being used to strengthen families and reduce the divorce rate. My friend Jerry Regier, Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary for Health and Human Services, worked with Governor Keating to develop this innovative plan.